3094-6

23 JUN 1966

Lt. General W. A. Davis Vice Commander Air Force Systems Command Andrews Air Force Base Washington, D. C.

Dear General Davis:

I am in full agreement with the concern expressed in your letter of 3 June regarding the deficiencies in our knowledge of the more advanced weapons currently being developed by the Soviet R&D community. May I say that your desire for National Estimates on Soviet military R&D is shared by the USIB community. At present, NIE 11-66 on Soviet military R&D is being drafted for USIB review, probably sometime in July.

Backing up the above NIE, is an all-source study being prepared by the Scientific Intelligence Committee covering the scope and direction of the military research and development. Unfortunately, this all-out effort by the whole intelligence community suffers from the general lack of detailed knowledge on the early phases of the Soviet R&D cycle. We are currently considering additional ways and means to close the gaps in our knowledge which the above study has revealed.

USAF review(s) completed.

Sincerely,

C	ompieted.	signed) W. F. Raborn
		W. F. Raborn Director
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	Director/Scientific Intelligence	1 6 JUN 1966
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	Deputy Director for Science & Technol	ogy Date
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FORM NO. 237



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3094-662

17 JUN 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Letter to Vice Commander, Air Force Systems

Command

- 1. The attached letter for your signature is in reply to a letter from General Davis, Vice Commander, AFSC, suggesting USIB review the need for National Estimates on Soviet Technology.
- 2. General Davis is apparently unaware that a National Estimate on Soviet R&D is already being prepared on the basis of an indepth SIC study, recently completed. Both the NIE and the Summary and Conclusions of the SIC study should reach using July. The prime concern of Air Force, as you may know, as that current weapons being analyzed do not necessarily is that current weapons being analyzed do not necessarily reflect the more advanced projects in the early development reflect the sIC is preparing a post-mortem on its study which will recommend more effort on this area.

Director of Scientific Intelligence

Attachment: As stated

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TO: DDCI

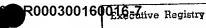
Following the DCI's visit to the Air Force Systems Command, General Davis wrote the DCI to urge that USIB review the need to cover Soviet R&D activities in a National Estimate.

suggests that General Davis is apparently unaware that an NIE on Soviet R&D is being prepared on the basis of a Scientific Intelligence Committee (SIC) study. Both the NIE and the study's summary and conclusions should come before USIB in July. The SIC intends to recommend that greater effort be devoted to this problem.

Recommend that the Director sign the attached letter advising General Davis of the above.

25X1





16- 25-64

Department of the Air Force
Headquarters Air Force Systems Command
Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D. C. 20331

SCF

8 JUN TO

Soviet Military R&D (U)

CIA (The Henorable William F. Raborn) Washington, DC

- 1. (5) (Gp-1) You may recall the concern you expressed during your visit with us at Andrews Air Force Base, regarding the possible obscuration of important items by the multitude of requests for intelligence. An additional and serious espect of this obscuration problem has become apparent, and we believe it could be a subject for consideration during the USIB review of need for national estimates on Soviet technology. The problem concerns a seeming prescrupation by intelligence with the many new weapons appearing in the USER to the exclusion of adequate attention to the more advanced weapons which comprise the current efforts of the Soviet R&D community
- 2. (3) (Gp-3) Intelligence reports recent and substantial growth in Soviet support to Réd resource development, and very respectable increases in technical competence in the areas which support the development of measons. Current assessments consider this growth as pertaining to the meny new Soviet measons which we have seem come into existence, but this practice addresses only a part of the problem. The picture is not complete. The measons we see today, in service or undergoing testing, are the products of a technical capacity of several years past; their relationship to current Réd and future measons is limited, although they may provide an indication of intent to develop measons and proof of past competence.
- 3. (8) (Gp-3) National estimates of Seviet military R&D are urgently needed. The Air Force Systems Command is particularly interested in beeing long term R&D planning upon a more sound foundation than that now available from intelligence of existing equipment and the incremental improvements thereto. But we lack positive information about the specific advanced weapons projects now in the Soviet labs and design bureaus. He ask your essistance, therefore, in insisting upon the development of meaningful estimates of the Seviet R&D activities and achievements leading to the weapons of 1970 1975.

SIGNED

W. A. DAVIS
Lt General, USAF
Vice Commander

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